



HYBRID ACCESS SYSTEM WITH REMOTE DEVICE MONITORING SCHEME

This application is a Continuation of copending Application Serial No. 08/700,988 of Eudardo J. Moura and Jan M. Gronski filed August 21, 1996 for Asymmetric Hybrid Access System and Method, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference (now U.S. Patent No. 6,005,850).

Field of Invention

This invention relates to systems and methods for extending a high-speed network to remote locations using an asymmetric hybrid access system.

Background of the Invention

Current data communication systems typically use symmetric communication paths between transmit and receive sites, which have substantially the same data rates and use the same media in both directions. Such media may include coaxial, fiber optic, or telephone twisted-pair lines. Some networks alternatively use broadcast only paths. However, no current network combines the flexibility of full-duplex symmetric networks with the cost effectiveness of broadcast only networks.

Prior attempts at achieving asymmetric data communications included modems with very low speed return channels or systems combining a low speed broadcast channel with telephone return lines. However, no prior systems were able to extend a symmetric high-speed backbone network to remote locations at high speed using an asymmetric hybrid access system. Known prior asymmetric systems are limited to low speed links.

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